Princeton Theological Seminary Library
MS P978s

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Society of Enquiry

on

Missions B.C.

List of Manuscripts.

Society of Enquiry on Missions, &c.

The committee appointed to examine the Mss. relating principally to missions, and which were deposited with the Librarian of this Society, by the Standing Committee of Missions in the Presbyterian Church of the United States, beg leave to report as follows;-

They have perused the greater part of those papers consisting of about 200 different documents, with as much care as was consistent with the extent of the undertaking. They are of opinion that no Abstract or Compend of the information contained in the Mss. can with propriety be made by this society. The papers, however, are valuable as documents of reference: and supposing

they may probably remain in the possession of the society; your committee have made a catalogue of them, and disposed them according to the order of time in which they were received. This Catalogue will exhibit a general view of what may be learned from the MSS.; and being numbered, will make it easy and convenient to consult any part of them without confusion or unnecessary labour.

Most of the papers are addressed to the former Chairman of the Standing Committee of Missions, who now are honorary Members of this society;— where a different address is used, it will be noticed.—

The Catalogue, beginning with the year 1803, is as follows;—

c.v.o.

1.8.2. Annual report of the standing committee of Missions,— containing, besides

No. extracts from the various Missionary journals, — much other interesting matter. — (worth reading.)

3. Missionary Journal of the Revd. John Lindsley, on a tour through the Western parts of the state of N. York. (not very interesting.)

4. Missionary Journal of the Revd. Peter Fish through the southern part of the state of N. York. (nothing particularly interesting.)

5. Letter from the Revd. Jedediah Chapman Missionary for the General Assembly, with an abstract of his journal, on a mission through the Western parts of the state of N. York. In which he states the pressing call for Missionaries, and for those especially who would consent to settle in that country.

6. A plan to regulate the conduct of a Missionary to the Western Indians. (good.)

7. Commission of a Missionary.

8. An address to the people of Missionary regions, to be delivered by Missionaries. (good.)

9. Circular Letter from the General Assembly to all the Presbyteries, requesting information on the subject of Missionaries & Missions.

10. Instructions to Missionaries. (worth attending to.)

11. A curious letter from Dr. Cooper, of Shepherdsburgh, Penn. containing some satirical queries. (amusing & instructive.)

12. Letter from Revd. Wm. Hill of Virginia, respecting money in Scotland devoted to pious purposes, among others to the conversion of the Indians, — which the General Assembly hope to obtain.

13. Letter from Revd. Alexander Miller of Albany, requesting that missionaries may be confined to a smaller region, and recommending Revd. P. Firth to missionate for 6 months in the county of Oneida. (good.)

14. Answer of the Presbytery of Columbia (N. York) to the circular letter of the General Assembly concerning missions; — stating that they have within their bounds a region of more than

100 miles in extent, containing thousands of people calling for supplies, and desirous of forming ecclesiastical societies, who are totally unsupplied and unsupplyable by that Presbytery; — describing there missionary circuits, and requesting that three missionaries might be sent who should be circumscribed within a small extent of country, instead of hurrying rapidly over vast regions, as they had formerly done. — (the whole of it interesting)

15. Letter from the Revd John Lindsley, of Ovid, N. York, informing the committee that on his tour through the West parts of N. York, the people every where received him gladly; — that there were in many places appearances of a work of Divine power; — that he has every reason to believe the Lord does highly own and bless the Missionary cause; — and that there is a pressing call for Candidates who would be willing to settle in that Western region. (highly interesting.)

16. Letter from the same gentleman, in an-

swer to some enquiries concerning the most profitable manner of conducting missions, from Jacob J. Janeway and Philip Milledoler, in which he suggests the propriety of the travelling missionaries paying more particular attention to the destitute of our own order, thereby to counteract the attempts of other denominations to proselyte them. — Makes known the pressing desires of the people of Ontario County to receive Missionaries; — gives it as his opinion that Missionaries ought to be entrusted with a little more discretionary power, and be confined to smaller circuits; — gives some substantial reasons why a missionary should confine his visits to 4 or 5 settlements, instead of flying like an eagle through the heavens! — As to the persons and character of Missionaries, he thinks it of the utmost importance that missionaries should possess a natural talent for the work, — have the gift of an evangelist, — be given to devotion and Christian conversation. The people expect a missionary to be more than commonly religious

and if disappointed, they are rather dispersed than built up. (highly interesting.)

17. Letter to the General Assembly from Williams Township, and Genessee congregations, requesting to be supplied with a Minister. — (apparently written by a Lawyer — in some respects curious.)

18. Letter from the Presbytery of Erie — requesting that their share of the books purchased by the General Assembly may be forwarded to them. They mention an encouraging and interesting fact, that within the 4 years since the Gospel began to be preached in that territory, 50 congregations had been formed, 28 of which were already supplied with preachers, and the remaining 22 unsupplied.

19. Letter to the General Assembly from the Rev. Aaron Condit of Hanover, N. Jersey, — recommending that two Missionaries be sent out in company, that they be confined to a narrower region. (short.)

20. Letter from N. Brunswick Presbytery to Gen.

Assembly - giving information that on the sea-coast, from Shrewsbury to Egg-Harbour, from 15 to 20 miles inland, there is not a single settled Minister of any denomination.

21. Letter from Revd. James Kemper, Cincinnatti, detailing the destitute settlements along the river Ohio, as likewise throughout the State of Ohio. (useful information.)

22. Letter from Dr. Rogers, Pastor of a Baptist Church, Philadelphia, answering some questions of our committee of mission, - stating that there are in America 2 Baptist Missionary Associations, viz. Massachusetts and Philadelphia Associations, - but they have done very little. They have about 1200 churches in the United States including a large number Blacks communicants in the Southern states. He believes the Baptists of Kentucky have hitherto employed one or two ministers to preach to the Indians, but that their principal efforts have been directed to the destitute

Letters of the West.

23. Letter from Silas Dinsmore Esq. agent for the Chactaw Indians, in answer to some enquiries of Dr. Green. "I think well," says he, "of a Mission to the Indians; I mean, however, a mission of teaching, but not of preaching." He thinks they ought to commence with teaching the children, and through them gain the affection of the parents. The Indians have no image, but their songs convey the idea of a plurality of deities. Besides the Great Spirit for which they have a number of names, they consider the Sun and Fire as their tutelary Deities. Speaking of a providential escape, as of a warrior from battle, they say "the Sun and Fire loved him. He promises his cooperation.

24. Missionary Journal of Rev.d Aaron Condit, through the Southern parts of the State of N. York.

1804. — No Papers of much importance.

1805.

No.

1. 2. Annual Report of the standing committee. (contains much interesting matter.)

3. Letter from the Netherland Missionary society giving an answer to the several queries proposed to them by the standing Committee.

4. Letter from Christian Ignatius Latrobe, on the part of the Unitas Fratrum, London, on the same subject. — (long, but interesting.)

5. Missionary tour through the Western parts of the State of N. York by Revd Timothy Williams. (contains some interesting matter.)

6. Journal of the Revd John Clore through the Northern parts of the State of N. York, — giving an interesting account of the state of religion in that region. — (rather illegible.)

7. Copy of a letter from the Committee of Missions to Mr. Blackburn on several subjects. — (worth reading.)

8. Letter from Mr. Blackburn, with a Map of the Missionary ground among the Cherokees.

1806. To the Charge of the Gen. Assembly.

No.

1. Letter of the Revd Jonas Coe, giving an account of the Missionary Region to the North and West of Troy, and the wants of the people.

2 & 3. Minute relating to the publication of Dr. Nott's Miss. Sermon, and Dr. Nott's answer to the Committee.

4. Draft of a letter to the President of the U. S. requesting that Vaccination may be introduced among the Cherokee Indians.

5. Letter from the Hampshire Miss. Society, purporting to accompany their annual report, which report is not to be found.

6. Letter of Mr. John Chavis, a missionary. (no minute)

7. A letter from Mr. James Hodge - Do — (Do

8. Letter from Mr. Elias Riggs — Do — (Do

9. Letter from Mr. J. Bogure — soliciting an appointment as a missionary.

10. Miss. Report of Revd L. B. Wilson — respecting a tour to Fredericksburgh, Virginia, and circumjacent Country.

11. Report from the Presbytery of N. Brunswick to the standing committee of Missions. — on the subject of Miss. exertions in their department.

12. Report of the standing Committee of Missions, to the Gen. Assembly, detailing their doings for this year.

13. A letter from the committee of the West Lexington Presbytery on the subject of employing students of Divinity, and exhorters, and missionaries in our new-settlements; to which the Com. object.

14. Report of the Committee of Missions on the subject of procuring a particular book. (not interesting.)

15. Specimens of writing by scholars in the second school of Cherokee Indians; forwarded by Mr. Blackburn. (very interesting.)

16. An interesting report of a Missionary tour performed by Mr. David Rice in Kentucky and Ohio, — with observations on the New-Lights and Shakers of that region

17. Letter of Mr. John Lyle, stating his miss. labours in Kentucky, near Lexington.

18. Report of the Presbytery of Hudson to the standing Com. of Miss. relating to the wants of missionary labours in the Counties of Ulster and West Chester, (very brief, and not intersting to us)

19. Letter from the Presbytery of Columbia, praying that Missionaries may be sent to the destitute settlements about Lake George, and Lake Champlain.

20. Communication from the Synod of N. York & N. Jersey, stating the very necessitous case of many places in the bounds of their Synod, with respect to the means of salvation, — particularly the Counties of W. Chester, and Dutches, on the East side of Hudson River, — ~~and Ulster~~ of Rockland, Orange, and Ulster on the West side; and also in the Counties of Morris & Sussex in N. Jersey. The view is enlightening and striking, and highly important to candidates for the ministry.

21. Letters from Rev. Mr. Blythe, Lexington. (to us of no importance)

22. Letter from Mr. James Hughes of West Liberty: to the Charge of Gen. Assembly.

23. Letter of Robert Davison respecting books to be sent to the Presbytery of Carlisle. (Ditto.)

24. Letter from Mr. John Chavis a minister of colour.

25. Letter from Mr. Davidson from the Presbytery of Carlisle, respecting Books.

26. Letter from the Rev. Mr. Lastrick.

27. Letter of Mr. John Lyle of Clark (Kentucky) respecting an appointment to a Miss. tour

28. Extracts from the minutes of the G. A. embracing sundry resolutions relating to Missions.

29. Letter from Wm. R. Darrand & Co. of Phila. relating to the support and success of the Assembly's Magazine. (to us of no importance)

30. Letter from the Rev. James Blythe. (to us of no importance)

31. Report of the Committee of Missions.

A. D. 1807.

1. Journal of a Miss. tour in N. Connecticut, by Mr. Thomas E. Hughes. (particular, long, interesting)

2. Report of a Miss. tour made by John Chavis in the counties of Wake & Orange, N. Carolina, with some interesting remarks respecting the situation and good moral conduct of the Blacks.
3. Journal of a Miss. tour made by the Rev. Gershom Williams, in the counties of Morris and Sussex, N. Jersey.
4. Report of a short miss. tour by Mr. Bradford Marcy.
5. Report of Mr. James Hughes of the Ohio Presbytery, - respecting books.
6. Report of the Board of trustees of the Western Miss. society, to the Standing Com. of Miss. respecting the Indian mission at Sandusky, for the first year of its establishment, under the care of Mr. Badge. (highly interesting.)
7. Treasury accounts for this year.
8. Another Report of a Miss. tour by Bradford Marcy.
9. Journal of a Miss. tour made by Mr. Banvil, in the north part of the State of Kentucky.

and in the Indiana Territory. (Interesting as giving some account of what a missionary has to expect from the Schismatics of that region.)

10. Letter of the Revd. Elias Riggs, - respecting a missionary appointment.

11. Missionary journal of Revd. Elisa Dunbar. — through several towns in Pennsylvania. — (well worth our attention.)

12. Letter of Revd. John Lindsley, requesting a missionary appointment to the Holland purchase.

13. Revd. Wm. Wicks journal of a 2nd missionary tour in Ct. Connecticut with much valuable information respecting the religious state of that region.

14. Gave Atkinson's sale of Dr. Hollock's sermon.

15. Missionary Report, by the Revd. Robert Heart, of a tour of three months, performed in the bounds of Transylvania Presbytery.

16. Do. of Revd. Samuel Findley, in the same place.

17. Mr. Mitchel's journal of a Missionary tour in Virginia.

18. Mr. John Chavis journal of a Miss. tour in Wake County, Virginia. – with a letter accompanying.

19. Rev. James Hall's report of a Miss. tour, containing an affecting representation of the miserably low state of religion in that part of S. Carolina, about the forks of Pedee river.

20. Rev. J. Chapman's tour for one month near Geneva, in the state of N. York.

21. Rev. Wm. Wick's journal of a tour in Ct. Connecticut, with an accompanying letter.

22. A short tour by the Rev. Thomas J. Hall within the bounds of the Synod of the Carolinas.

23. Communications from Mr. Robert Stuart, respecting a mission of three months, performed by him, in the bounds of West Lexington, Transylvania, and Cumberland Presbyteries. – This is an important paper. It

contains an enlightened history of the Churches in those presbyteries. The deplorable effects of the heretical doctrines lately propagated by Schismatics in that region, - and details in particular the proceedings had by the Synod of Kentucky, in regard to certain illiterate young men, irregularly licensed by the Presbytery.

24. Rec. Mr. Clarks report of a missionary tour performed by him in the Counties of Cayuga, Seneca, & Tioga, in the state of N. York.

A. 1808.

1. Mr. John D. Perkins report of a mission performed by him in the counties of Kent & Sussex, Delaware. It represents the few Presbyteries in that region as widely scattered, and in very destitute circumstances as to gospel privileges. The paper would be valuable to a missionary who was about to travel into those counties, as

it states the encouragements very particularly and gives the names of those persons, on whom it would be proper for a missionary to call.

2. Another report of a missionary by the Rev. J. Hall, within the bounds of the Synod of the Carolinas.

3. Report of Mr. William Hare, of a Mission near the forks of Edisto river.

4. Report of a Missionary tour made by Mr. Wm. Clark in that part of N. York mentioned in his report last year. Vid. No. 25.

5. Communications by several missionaries, viz. Messrs. David Rice, Robert Stuart, and Samuel Findley, respecting the state of religion in what was formerly called the Cumberland Presbytery. (The same referred to in No. 32 of last year.)

6. Three months of Missionary labour in the City and vicinity of Philadelphia, by Mr. Wm. Lee.

7. Two months of missionary labour by Mr.

Thomas Lumpkin, within the bounds of the Hanover Presbytery, near Richmond.

8. Three sheets relating a Missionary tour in Ct. Connecticut; — five remove.

9. Mr. John Alexander's report of a Missionary tour down the west side of Lake Champlain, in the state of Ct. York.

10. Report of the Rev. Robert W. Chapman, relating to a missionary tour performed by him on the western side of Lake George, and other parts of the county of Washington, State of Ct. York. The region traversed was extensive, — the journal long and ~~extensive~~ interesting.

11. Report of a Missionary Tour by the Rev. J. Mitchel, in Franklin County, Virginia.

12. Dr. Hall's Report for 1808.

Your Committee conclude their report by recommending, that the MS.S.

be numbered according to the above catalogue, and that the catalogue and MSS. be deposited in the library of this Society.

March 31. - 1815

C. W. Gilbert
R. Smith
Sam[l] Robertson
} Committee